Further observations may discover still other agavoid taxa to bridge the gap between the superior ovary of the Liliaceae and the inferior ovary of the Amarillidaceae, the principal character conservatively aligning the Agaves with the Amaryllids.

Hesperaloe nocturna is patently rare, as it is not known from other collections or places. However, as much of northeastern Sonora has not been botanized, it may be expected in other Sonoran localities. This occurrence records the genus from west of the continental divide. In appearance the plants closely resemble the clumped "bear grass," *Nolina microcarpa* S. Wats., which occurs in the same region (figs. 2, 3). Doyle Noel of the USDA Plant Quarantine Station in Nogales, Arizona, first called the plant to my attention. Plants are presently growing in his garden and he can be credited with making the first introduction.

Transplants are also responding well in the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona. No native names or uses were obtained for the plant.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Lasthenia glabrata remains diploid.—Recently Mehra et al. (Caryologia 18:35–68. 1965) reported $n = 14$ for the helenioid composite *Lasthenia glabrata* Lindl. This count was based on plants of unspecified origin cultivated in Chandigarh, India. In view of my determination of $n = 7$ for plants in several populations of this species in its native California (Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 40:1–92. 1966), this record of an apparent tetraploid is of unusual interest. In response to my request, achenes of the Indian plants were sent through the courtesy of Prof. Mehra, and were subsequently planted in Berkeley. Upon flowering, it was clear that the plants belonged to *L. chrysostoma* (F. & M.) Greene, a species known to have $n = 8$ and $n = 16$ but not $n = 14$. Although hypotetraploids in this species would be of unusual cytophyletic interest, examination of microsporogenesis in them indicated that they have $n = 16$ rather than $n = 14$. Meiosis was characterised by sticky chromosomes in the first meiotic division and this may have led Mehra and his co-workers to an impression of fewer chromosome pairs than exist. In fact, it is possible to reinterpret fig. 33 published by them as $n = 16$, if it is assumed that one of the alleged bivalents is a pair of loosely associated bivalents, and that what appear to be two sets of dissociated bivalents are each trivalents, or that perhaps the large ringlike figure is a quadrivalent. I am indebted to T. F. Niehaus for his assistance with this problem.—Robert Ornduff, Dept. of Botany, University of California, Berkeley.